

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05421 091144Z

44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01

AID-05 COME-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /083 W

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R 091055Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1050

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5421

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LA, INCB

SUBJECT: INCB SECRETARY'S VISIT TO LAOS

REF: GENEVA 4438

1. INCB SECRETARY DITTERT ADVISES THAT HE IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HE LEARNED VIENTIANE. HE WAS INFORMED THAT LAO GOVT HAS DECIDED PROGRESSIVELY TO ELIMINATE POPPU CULTIVATION AND OPIUM PRODUCTION OVER NEXT FIVE YEARS. INTENTION IS TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ALTERNATIVES FOR POPPY FARMERS AND TREAT/REHABILITATE ADDICTS. GOVT HAS ALREADY BEGUN TAKING ACTION TO CARRY OUT ITS POLICY DECISION. GOVT HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RECEIVING UN ASSISTANCE AND DITTERT IS PROPOSING THAT INCB, PURUSANT ARTICLE 14 BIS OF 1972 TREATY, RECOMMEND PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE BY UNFDAC.

2. DETTERT REPORTS HE WAS RECEIVED, AMONG OTHERS, BY
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 05421 091144Z

SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INTERIOR AND

HEALTH AND ALSO BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. AMONG
POINTS OF INTEREST WHICH EMERGED FROM DISCUSSIONS ARE
FOLLOWING.

3. RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTING GOVT'S OPIUM POLICY
HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO MINISTER OF INTERIOR WHO HAS
STARTED FIVE-YEAR PLAN. OPIUM DENS HAVE BEEN CLOSED
AND PLANS TO TREAT DRUG ADDICTS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP. SALE
AND PURCHASE OF AND TRADE IN OPIUM TO PRIVATE INDIVID-
UALS HAS BEEN PROHIBITED THROUGHOUT COUNTRY. TEMPORARY
CONTROLLED OPIUM PRODUCTION IS TO BE AUTHORIZED FOR
TREATMENT ADDICTS AND QUASI-MEDICAL USE . (INCB MISSION
DISCOURAGED LATTER USAGE.)

4. ON REPLACEMENT CROPS, AGRICULTURE MINISTER'S STRATEGY
IS TO UNDERTAKE IN FIRST PHASE "LIMITED EXPERIMENTAL PROJECT"
DURING WHICH CERTAIN CROPS WILL BE TESTED AND IF SUCCESSFUL
INTRODUCED TO HILL TRIBES. IN HILLS, GOVT ALSO WISHES ENGAGE
IN RE-FORESTATION AND RAISING OF LIVESTOCK.

5. SOME HILL POPPY FARMERS ARE TO BE RESETTLED IN PLAINS TO
ENGAGE IN RICE PRODUCTION TO WHICH GOVT ATTACHES PARAMOUNT
IMPORTANCE.

6. TEXT OF DITTERT'S CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON HIS VISIT LAOS
HAS BEEN POUCHED. DALE

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